

REMARKS

Pursuant to the present amendment, claim 55 has been amended and claim 63 has been canceled. Thus, claims 27-62 and 64-67 are pending in the present application. No new matter has been introduced by way of the present amendment. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and arguments set forth herein.

In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that claims 24-54 and 64 were allowed. It is believed that the Examiner's reference to claim 24 was an inadvertent error. Claims 27-67 were pending in the application at the time the Office Action was issued. Thus, it is believed that the Examiner intended to indicate that claims 27-54 and 64 were allowed.

Claims 63 and 65-67 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Office Action, p. 3. Pursuant to the present amendment, independent claim 55 has been amended to present dependent claim 63 in independent form. Thus, it is believed that claims 55-62 are allowable.

The objection to dependent claims 65-67 is also believed to be an inadvertent error. Dependent claims 65, 66 and 67 depend from ALLOWED independent claims 52, 53 and 54, respectively. Thus, dependent claims 65-67 are allowable by virtue of their dependency on an allowed independent claim.

In the Office Action, claims 55-62 were rejected under 35 U.S. § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Cunningham (U.S. Patent No. 5,819,852). The Examiner's rejections are moot in view of the amendments made herein. It should be understood that in making the amendments set forth herein, Applicants do not acquiesce in the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejections. Applicants specifically reserve the right to pursue claims of the scope set

forth in the rejected claims in a later filed application should they desire to do so. Additionally, the fundamental deficiencies in the Examiner's primary reference, Cunningham, as set forth in Applicant's Response to Final Office Action Dated January 26, 2007, are hereby incorporated by reference.

For at least the aforementioned reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for immediate allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (713) 934-4055 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

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